

In the specification:

Please replace paragraph [028] with the following paragraph:

Figure 2 illustrates a remote metering system 200 in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. System 200 comprises a plurality of radio telemetry devices 100 installed at a plurality of residences 202. Each device 100 is capable of relaying meter data and command and control data to and from other devices 100, and ultimately to central gateway 208. To relay data, a device ~~200~~ 100 receives and then re-transmits the data using radio module 104. The relaying of the data is illustrated by links 206 in Figure 2. For example, meter data collected by device 100A is transmitted to device 100B. Device 100B relays the meter data to device 100C, which relays the data to device 100D. Device 100D then relays the data to central gateway 208. In this manner, system 200 can be extended over long distances.

Please replace paragraph [029] with the following paragraph:

To further extend the reach of system ~~100~~ 200, modified radio telemetry devices 204 can also be employed. Devices 204 are dedicated to relaying data and, as illustrated in Figure 3, do not link to meters directly. Thus, device 204 includes an antenna 102, a radio module 104, a processor 306, and memory 310, but does not include a meter interface 108. The reach of system 200, therefore, is only limited by the availability of radio telemetry devices 100 and modified radio telemetry devices 204.

Please replace paragraph [030] with the following paragraph:

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The relaying capability of devices 100 and 204 ~~reduces~~ reduce the range required of the transmitter portion of radio module 104. This allows short range, low power transmitters to be used in radio module 104. One example of a short-range low power transmitter is defined in volume I of "The Specification of the Bluetooth™ System," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The Bluetooth™ specification defines a universal radio interface that uses frequency map (FM) spread spectrum techniques and operates in the Industrial-Scientific-Medical (ISM) band. Bluetooth™ transmitters are capable of up to 100 mW of transmit power and ranges of 100m.